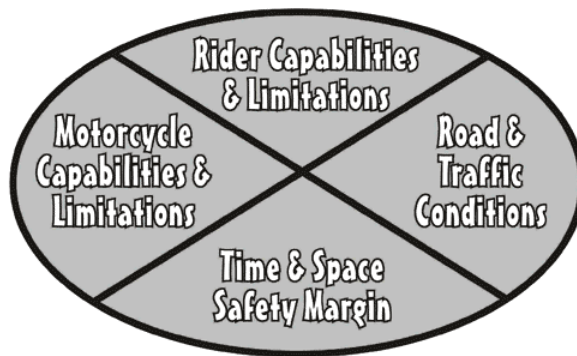


Schinnen Safe Rider - The Oval of Safety

If you're a new motorcycle driver, or recently purchased a new bike, here's some valuable advice to get you going safely. Experienced motorcycle drivers know that understanding the "Oval of Safety" plays a major role in their ability to ride safe while out on the road.

A margin of time and space must be maintained to ensure a safe riding environment. The rider's capabilities and limitations, motorcycle capability and limitations, and road and traffic conditions each play a part. New riders or riders who graduate to a larger, heavier or faster bike should pay special attention to his/her capabilities and limitations. The safety margin is gone if a required maneuver calls for a skill beyond that of the rider. The safety margin is gone if a situation calls for more steering and/or braking than your motorcycle is capable of providing. The safety margin is gone if there is no time or space to maneuver.

Oval of Safety



Applies these principles, here's some advice:

(1) Know Yourself. Be honest about your true capabilities and limitations as a motorcyclist. It's sometimes easy to convince ourselves that we are better than we really are. Tragically, every week in the news there's another story about someone who exceeded their driving ability and became a statistic. Take the time necessary to receive driving instruction from the Motorcycle Driving Professionals in your community. The MSF Basic & Experienced Rider Courses are offered for this purpose.

(2) Know Your Equipment. Not knowing the basic characteristics of your motorcycle before driving it may lead you down the path to your first serious incident and motorcycle accident. Before riding for the first time, familiarize yourself with your equipment owner's manual. Then, start your riding experience by learning the motorcycle's clutch and throttle applications; how much drive is applied to the rear wheel at any given setting; and how easy or difficult it is to perform various basic maneuvers. This should be a gradual process that progresses when you do. When starting to drive in curves at increased speeds, forget what you see on the Sport's Channel. Excessive speeds and extreme leaning maneuvers are reserved for the most experienced drivers and should only be performed on the race track in controlled conditions.

(3) Go Slow. Be Disciplined. Stay Alert. These three speak for themselves.

Following these simple riding tips will allow you to maintain the "Oval of Safety" and to have an Enjoyable and Safe Ride.

Schinnen Safe Riders – Drive to Arrive.
USAG Schinnen Installation Safety Office